



Date: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012

Contact: Jessica Di Santo – (317) 229-7082

Indianapolis' major sports teams donate \$1.5 million in support of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

With lead gifts from Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, Indiana Pacers owner Herb Simon and a \$500,000 challenge grant for new donors from Yvonne Shaheen, ISO reaches \$2.35 million in new pledges

INDIANAPOLIS –The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's "Life. It's Better with Music" fundraising campaign to raise \$5 million before Feb. 3, 2013 has reached a milestone, as Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay and Indiana Pacers owner Herb Simon have pledged lead gifts of \$750,000 each. Announced at the ISO's annual meeting on Dec. 3, these major gifts, coupled with a \$500,000 challenge grant from longtime ISO supporter and board member, Yvonne Shaheen, and other pledges, puts the organization at \$2.35 million raised to date.

"As former co-chairmen of the ISO's capital campaign in 2010, Mr. Irsay and Mr. Simon have once again demonstrated their commitment to a sustainable future for the ISO," said Martha Lamkin, ISO board chair. "To add to this mix, Yvonne Shaheen has generously stepped up to help with a significant one-to-one challenge grant in order to maximize pledges from new donors. This level of support from our community and business leaders is vital in sustaining the organization's financial health."

"This great orchestra has experienced a difficult start to its season and a challenging time in its rich history," said Jim Irsay. "But just like our Colts, every team can achieve success with a rallying cry from its fans – and that time is now for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Alongside Herb, I'm proud to support and celebrate the contribution that the ISO provides our community, to help ensure its financial stability, and to call on all business leaders and supporters to do the same," he added.

"The ISO has been embedded in our downtown, our schools, and our Hoosier communities for more than 82 years," said Herb Simon. "Jim and I recognize the significant sacrifices made by everyone involved and are on board to assist in securing its future for the many generations after us. The ISO's slogan says 'life is better with music.' I think Indianapolis is better with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra," he said.

With \$5 million raised by Feb. 3, 2013, the ISO and its musicians will enter into a new five-year contract that represents significant concessions made by the musicians as well as substantial annual fundraising goals which are above and beyond the annual \$6.5 million the ISO raises annually. The ISO is calling on its community of subscribers, patrons, affiliate group members, donors and corporate leaders to

contribute substantially to the organization in order to support its musicians, its programs and its educational initiatives on an annual basis.

Information on how to donate to the “Life. It’s Better with Music” fundraising campaign is located here: <http://www.indianapolissymphony.org/sites/indy/donate.aspx>.

###